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In the Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (new) Apparatus for measuring the condition of fruit and vegetables comprising
a plunger movable into and out of contact with a surface of an item of fruit or
vegetable,

said plunger carrying a transducer which is brought into contact with an item of
fruit or vegetables, the transducer reacting to a property of said fruit or vegetables to produce
an output signal related to that property,

wherein at least a part of said plunger which contacts said item of fruit or
vegetables is of generally curved shape.

11. (new) Apparatus according to claim 10 mounted in a resilient bellows assembly, said
bellows assembly being capable of expansion under the action of pressurized air to bring the
transducer into contact with a fruit or vegetable surface for measurement, and retraction by the
application of a vacuum to move the transducer away from the fruit or vegetable surface.

12. (new) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the transducer comprises an active
transducer.

13. (new) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the transducer comprises an active
transducer.

14. (new) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the transducer comprises a
piezoelectric sensor.

15. (new) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the transducer comprises a
piezoelectric sensor.

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16. (new) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.
17. (new) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.
18. (new) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.
19. (new) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.
20. (new) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.
21. (new) Apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the transducer is generally hemispherical in shape at least at the part thereof which contacts the fruit or vegetable surface.
22. (new) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the plunger comprises a housing within which is mounted a slug which carries said transducer wherein said slug is movable in said housing against the bias of a biasing member.
23. (new) Apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the biasing means comprises a spring.
24. (new) Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein movement of said slug in said housing is additionally damped by a damping member.
25. (new) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein movement of said slug in said housing is additionally damped by a damping member.

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26. (new) Apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said transducer is electrically connected to external circuitry by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within said damping member.

27. (new) Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said transducer is electrically connected to external circuitry by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within said damping member.

28. (new) Apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said transducer is electrically connected to external circuitry by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within said damping member.

29. (new) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said transducer is electrically connected to external circuitry by an electrical connection and said electrical connection is associated with or disposed within said damping member.